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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1951.





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ULVERSTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1951.

October, 1952.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Ulverston Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1951. On the grounds of economy the report has been stencilled and duplicated in the office this year instead of being printed.

GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area in acres.	127,485
Population - Preliminary Census, 1951.	17,244
- Registrar-General's estimate of home population.	16,580
Number of inhabited houses.	5,416
Rateable Value.	£81,149
Amount Produced by a Penny Rate.	£312.5.2

The district is entirely rural in character, the northern portion being typical Lakeland country with lakes and fells merging into the more fertile southern portion which extends to the coast and forms part of the northern shore of Morecambe Bay. Two lakes, Coniston and Esthwaite, as well as two-thirds of the shores of Lake Windermere are wholly contained in the district.

The principle industry is agriculture, with the hotel and catering industry playing a prominent part during the summer season.

At the time of the 1951 census there were 17,244 people in the Ulverston Rural District but this figure includes a number of temporary residents at hotels and at High Carley Sanatorium.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The principle vital statistics for 1951 and for the preceding five years are given in the table on page 2.

The number of births has shown an almost steady fall from the post-war peak in 1947 - 48 and the birth rate has followed a similar course.

Of the 224 births registered, 109 were males and 115 females, and four of each were illegitimate.

Year	Live births.	Deaths (all causes)	Stillbirths.	Maternal Mortality.		Infant Mortality.						
				Total.	Neonatal.	Total.						
	Number regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 popul- ation.	Number regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 popul- ation.	Number regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 total births.	No. of deaths regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 live births.	No. of deaths regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 live births.		
1951	224	13.5	271	16.3	3	13	nil	nil	5	22	3	13
1950	232	13.9	228	13.6	7	29	nil	nil	4	17	2	9
1949	234	14.0	254	15.2	8	33	nil	nil	5	21	-	-
1948	282	16.4	219	12.7	12	40	nil	nil	5	17	-	-
1947	282	15.9	245	14.7	3	10	nil	nil	10	35	-	-
1946	276	16.6	226	13.6	11	38	nil	nil	12	43	-	-
Average 5 years 1946 - 1950	-	15.6	-	14.0	-	30	-	nil	-	28	-	-

Adjusted (live birth-rate (comparability factor, 1.09) = 14.7 per 1,000.
(death-rate comparability factor, 0.81) = 13.2 per 1,000.

The number of deaths is higher than for any of the preceding five years as also is the crude death rate at 16.3 per 1,000 population. This increase is not unexpected and is a direct reflection of the ageing of the population. Some 76% of the deaths were of persons of 65 years of age or over. The principle causes of death were Heart Disease 116; malignant growths 45 and vascular lesions of the nervous system 29.

The table below shows comparisons between birth and death rates in England and Wales, 148 Smaller Towns and this district.

The rates quoted are for 1,000 population in all cases.

	England and Wales.		148 Smaller Towns. 25,000 - 50,000 population.		Ulverston Rural District.	
	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.
1947	20.5	12.0	22.2	11.9	16.9	14.7
1948	17.9	10.8	19.2	10.7	16.4	12.7
1949	16.7	11.7	18.0	11.6	14.0	12.5
1950	15.8	11.6	16.7	11.6	15.2	11.2
1951	15.5	12.5	16.7	12.5	14.7	13.2

Note: The Death Rates for the Ulverston Rural District quoted in the above table for the years 1947 and 1948 are the crude Death Rates. Those for the years 1949 to 1951 inclusive, are adjusted Death Rates after correction for age and sex distribution.

The Birth Rates for 1947 to 1949 inclusive are the crude Birth Rates and those for 1950 and 1951 are adjusted.

The correction is made so that the adjusted rates for the Ulverston Rural District can be compared with the adjusted rate for any other locality or with the rate for England and Wales as a whole.

STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health:- J. L. Wild, M.A., M.B.,
B. Chir., M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Other Appointments Held:- Medical Officer of Health -
Dalton-in-Furness Urban District - Grange-over-Sands Urban District -
Ulverston Urban District.

Divisional Medical Officer -
Health Division No. 1,
Lancashire County Council.

Senior Sanitary Inspector:- H. C. Claydon, Certificate -
Royal Sanitary Institute.
Certificate of Royal Sanitary
Institute - Meat and Other
Foods.

Sanitary Inspector:- H. E. Bingham, Certificate -
Royal Sanitary Institute.
Certificate of Royal Sanitary
Institute - Meat and Other
Foods.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

The table on page 5 shows the numbers of dwelling-houses and numbers of population supplied with water from public mains and from private sources in the parishes of the Ulverston Rural District at the end of 1951.

The townships to the west and south of Ulverston derive their water supplies from the Barrow undertaking and those adjacent to Grange from the Grange undertaking. The water in both cases is treated before going into supply. Most of the remaining parishes have their own separate supplies which are untreated.

The public supplies have been examined at regular intervals throughout the year and of twenty-seven bacteriological examinations made 15 were satisfactory and 12 unsatisfactory. Taking the results over a three year period your officers concluded that certain supplies were a potential danger to the community and recommended chlorine treatment for five of the larger public supplies. The recommendations were accepted by the Committee and by the Council. The subject is referred to again in the report of the Sanitary Inspectors.

Twenty-six bacteriological examinations were made of private supplies of which 17 proved satisfactory and nine unsatisfactory.

The scheme for providing the village of Outgate with a gravity water supply was completed during the year.

At 31st December, 1951, there were 3,344 houses on the water carriage system with 3577 water closets. There were also 631 privy middens and 55 pail closets. During the year 30 privies and 5 pail closets were converted to water closets.

The following table shows the numbers of dwelling-houses and numbers of the population supplied with water from public mains and from private sources in the parishes of the Rural District at the end of 1951.

TOWNSHIPS.	From Public Mains.				From private wells, and springs, etc.	
	Direct to houses.		By means of stand-pipes.			
	No. of dwelling-houses.	No. of population.	No. of dwelling-houses.	No. of population.	No. of dwelling-houses.	No. of population.
Aldingham.	272	920	-	-	5	18
Allithwaite Lower.	434	1169	-	-	2	5
Allithwaite Upper.	210	715	-	-	10	36
Angerton.	-	-	-	-	5	23
Blawith.	-	-	-	-	37	117
Broughton East.	27	103	-	-	25	109
Broughton West.	263	823	-	-	39	137
Cartmel Fell.	18	58	-	-	97	264
Claife.	142	380	-	-	31	119
Colton.	16	71	-	-	302	1057
Coniston.	279	858	20	55	43	165
Dunnerdale.	-	-	-	-	61	190
Egton-with-Newland.	110	324	-	-	162	556
Haverthwaite.	192	553	-	-	54	266
Hawkshead.	202	540	-	-	19	81
Holker Lower.	400	1317	-	-	46	183
Holker Upper.	8	38	-	-	40	179
Kirkby Ireleth.	386	1180	-	-	41	197
Lowick.	34	115	-	-	44	171
Mansriggs.	1	5	-	-	10	50
Osmotherley.	39	66	-	-	46	156
Pennington.	383	1571	-	-	8	33
Satterthwaite.	-	-	-	-	Private main. 106	336
Skelwith.	-	-	-	-	91	254
Staveley.	122	327	-	-	5	18
Subberthwaite.	9	30	-	-	15	47
Torver.	-	-	-	-	60	196
Urswick.	365	1104	-	-	5	19

Drainage and Sewerage.

Particulars of existing methods of disposal of sewage in the various townships of the Rural District are given below.

Township.	Village.	Method of Disposal.
Aldingham.	Leece.	Sewage tank with land irrigation.
	Gleaston.	Sewage tank.
	Scales.	Two sewage tanks with overflows to land.
	Baycliffe.	Sewage tank with outfall to sea.
Allithwaite Lower.	Allithwaite.	Sewage disposal works with tanks and filters - outfall to sea.
	Cartmel.	Sewage disposal works with tanks and filters - outfall to River Eea.
Allithwaite Upper.	Lindale.	Sewage disposal works with tanks and filters - outfall to River Winster.
	Newton.	Sewage disposal works with tanks and filters - outfall to stream.
Broughton East.	Field Broughton.	Sewage tank.
Broughton West.	Broughton-in-Furness.	Sewage tank with overflow to the tidal waters of the River Duddon.
	Foxfield.	Tidal waters of the River Duddon.
Claife.	Near Sawrey.	Sewage tanks.
	Far Sawrey.	Two sewage tanks with overflow to stream.
	Colthouse.	Sewage tank with overflow to stream.
Colton.	Bouth.	Sewage tank with overflow to stream.
	Ovenpark.	Sewage tank with overflow to land.
Coniston.	Coniston.	Five large sewage tanks with overflow to stream.
Egton.	Greenodd.	Tidal waters of Morecambe Bay.
	Pennybridge.	Sewage tank.
Haverthwaite.	Haverthwaite.	Sewage tank with overflow to river.
	Backbarrow.	Sewage tank with overflow to River Leven.
Hawkshead.	Hawkshead.	Sewage tank with outfall to stream.

Hawkshead.	Outgate.	Two sewage tanks with outfall to land and stream.
	Hannakin.	Sewage tank with outfall to stream.
Holker Lower.	Cark.	Sewage tank with outfall to sea.
	Ravenstown. Flookburgh.	Sewage tank and filters. Pumping Plant discharging sewage to enlarged works at Ravenstown with outfall to sea.
Kirkby Ireleth.	Sandside.	Tidal waters of River Duddon.
	Beckside.	Sewage tank with outfall to stream.
	Chapples.	Sewage tank with outfall to stream.
	Soutergate.	Sewage tank with outfall to sea.
Lowick.	Lowick Green.	Sewage tank with outfall to River Crake.
Osmotherley.	Beehive.	Tank with outfall to stream.
	Tarn Close.	Sewage tank with outfall to land.
	Three Bridges.	Sewage tank with outfall to stream.
Pennington.	Swarthmoor.	Outfall works of Ulverston Urban District Council.
	Trinkeld.	Outfall works of Ulverston Urban District Council.
	Loppergarth.	Sewage tank with outfall to land.
Satterthwaite.	Satterthwaite.	Private sewer to tank with outfall to stream.
Staveley.	Staveley.	Sewage tank with outfall to stream.
Torver.	Torver.	Sewage tank with outfall to stream.
Urswick.	Great Urswick.	Sewage tanks with outfalls to Tarn.
	Little Urswick.	Sewage tanks with outfalls to Tarn.
	Stainton.	Sewage tanks with outfalls to land.
	Bardsea.	Sewage tanks with outfalls to sea.

Particulars of Areas Where Sewerage Has Not Been Provided.

<u>Township.</u>	<u>Village.</u>
Claife.	Wray.
Egton-with-Newland.	Sparkbridge.
Kirkby Ireleth.	Grizebeck.
Osmotherley.	Broughton Beck.
Haverthwaite.	Backbarrow (part).
Aldingham.	Newbiggin.
Staveley.	Ayside.
	Barber Green.
Subberthwaite.	Gawthwaite.

Particulars of Areas Where Sewerage Is Now Under Consideration.

<u>Township.</u>	<u>Village.</u>
Egton-with-Newland.	Sparkbridge.
Kirkby Ireleth.	Grizebeck.
Haverthwaite.	Backbarrow (part).
Aldingham.	Newbiggin.
Staveley.	Ayside.

Public conveniences are provided at Allithwaite, Cark, Cartmel, Coniston, Hawkshead, Goadsbarrow, Bardsea and Broughton.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Details regarding inspection of food, shops, stalls and vehicles and places where food is prepared are given in the Sanitary Inspectors' report, as also are particulars of registrations under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, and the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment etc.) Regulations, 1947 and 1948.

There were no cases of food poisoning reported in 1951.

Clean Food Bye-Laws were adopted in February, 1951.

HOUSING.

Statistics.

1. Number of new houses erected during the year:-
By the local authority: a) Traditional permanent 34
b) Permanent prefabricated. 2
By other bodies or persons: 4
2. Total number of dwelling-houses which were inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 220
Number of inspections made for the purpose. 508
3. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. 5
4. Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. 136
5. Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers 82
6. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. 22
Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied by owners after service of formal notice. 10

The Local Authority's Housing Schemes in progress at the end of the year included Newbiggin 4, Broughton Beck 6, Cartmel 6, Coniston 7, Hawkshead 6, Lindale 4, Allithwaite 4 and Low Browedge, Backbarrow 6.

Contemplated schemes for 1952 included Broughton 8, Penny Bridge 8, Lindale 4, Allithwaite 4, High Row, Backbarrow 4, Flookburgh 12, Cartmel 6, Coniston 2 and Sparkbridge 4.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following table shows the numbers of cases of the notifiable infectious diseases which occurred in the Rural District during the five years 1946 - 1950 compared with the numbers in 1951.

Disease.	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951		Deaths.
						Number of cases.	Removed to hospital.	
Scarlet Fever.	10	10	37	23	46	10	5	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Measles.	2	84	186	12	237	171	0	0
Whooping Cough.	44	18	50	30	42	77	2	0
Puerperal fever & Pyrexia.	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Pneumonia.	16	17	15	12	7	21	2	0
C.S.F. Encephalitis lethargica.	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Erysipelas.	1	5	5	3	3	5	2	0
Dysentery.	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Enteric.	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	0
Para-typhoid fever.	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Polio-encephalitis.	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Polio-myelitis.	0	8	0	2	0	1	1	0
Food Poisoning.	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
TOTALS.	77	145	298	83	336	278	14	0

Measles again provided the largest number of cases of infectious disease. Most of them occurred in the Northern part of the Rural District, the part which escaped the previous year. There was also an increase in the number of cases of whooping cough.

A single case of poliomyelitis occurred in a girl aged 2 years. She was admitted to the Infectious Diseases Hospital, Barrow, on 3rd November, 1951.

An interesting commentary on the efficacy of diphtheria immunisation is that for the first time it is possible to omit diphtheria from the table, no case having been notified during any of the years 1946 - 1951 inclusive.

Tuberculosis.

The increase in the number of notifications of Tuberculosis is almost certainly due to improved diagnostic facilities. In particular, the visit in 1951 of the Mass Miniature Radiography Unit both directly and indirectly led to the earlier diagnosis of some cases of tuberculosis.

The following table shows the numbers of new cases and mortality during 1951.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2-	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5-	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
10-	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
15-	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1
20-	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0
25-	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
35-	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
45-	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
55-	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
65-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
75-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
and upwards.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS.	12	5	2	3	2	1	0	1
	17		5		3		1	

The table below shows the numbers of new cases and deaths from tuberculosis in Ulverston Rural Residents during the past twelve years.

Year.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1940	12	3	5	2	3	3	2	0
1941	11	11	3	4	2	5	0	0
1942	14	4	2	0	2	0	0	1
1943	11	14	3	5	3	3	1	0
1944	12	13	5	4	4	6	1	0
1945	5	5	5	7	1	3	0	0
1946	9	3	2	2	2	1	1	1
1947	6	8	6	7	1	2	0	0
1948	9	10	5	3	1	0	0	2
1949	11	6	5	6	1	2	0	0
1950	9	4	5	3	3	0	1	0
1951	12	5	2	3	2	1	0	1

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1938.

At 31st December, 1951, there were 32 factories registered at which mechanical power is not used of which 26 inspections had been made during the year. There were also 58 factories at which mechanical power is used and of these 42 inspections were made. Three defects were found, one case each of want of cleanliness, insufficient sanitary accommodation and defective sanitary conveniences. All the defects were subsequently remedied.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 - Sect. 47.

No action was taken under the above-mentioned Act during 1951.

BYE-LAWS.

The following Bye-Laws are in operation in the Rural District.

<u>Subject.</u>	<u>Date of Adoption.</u>
Building Bye-Laws.	1939
Petrol Filling Stations Bye-Laws.	1930

Subject.

Date of
Adoption.

Slaughterhouse Bye-Laws.

1932

Clean Food Bye-Laws.

1951

In conclusion it is my pleasure to thank the Members of the Health Committee and the Officers of the Ulverston Rural District Council, particularly the Sanitary Inspectors, for their unfailing courtesy and help.

The report of the Sanitary Inspectors is appended.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J. L. WILD.

Medical Officer of Health.

SANITARY INSPECTORS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER,
1951.

To the Chairman and Members of the Ulverston
Rural District Council,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Water Supplies.

During the year an official report was made to the Council with regard to Public Water Supplies in general. From the results of numerous samples taken over a three year period it was disclosed that no one supply could be described as entirely safe.

Topographical surveys were carried out on all gathering grounds and the majority were found to be grazing lands for sheep and cows and consequently heavily contaminated by faecal coli.

The need for efficient chlorination (in order of priority) of the following supplies is in our opinion an urgent sanitary necessity.

1. Epton-cum-Newland Supply.
2. Broughton Supply.
3. Hawkshead Supply.
4. Coniston Supply.
5. Haverthwaite and Backbarrow Supply.

Sewerage.

The only major development in sewage disposal was the provision of a new disposal plant at Loppergarth to replace the old inefficient scheme formerly in use.

In our opinion there is great need for similar sewage plants throughout the Rural Area.

Many of the existing disposal arrangements consist merely of settlement tanks and these without subsequent filtration cannot be regarded as satisfactory.

It must be realised, however, that with the present

restriction on Capital Expenditure there seems little hope of any great improvement in this direction.

The villages of Sparkbridge, Arrad Foot, Ayside, Barber Green and Grizebeck are a few examples of localities requiring sewerage as soon as practicable.

In regard to properties not having the facility of public sewers, it is our practice where improvements to the drainage system are to be carried out, to insist upon the provision of a more or less standard type of septic tank with filter, providing a reasonable fall can be obtained.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

During the year the inspection of foodstuffs has continued as a routine measure. Bakehouses, Butchers Shops and all food preparing premises are visited periodically to observe compliance with the Clean Food Bye-Laws. Where necessary instructions to cleanse or otherwise improve premises have been given, and we have experienced little or no difficulty in this direction.

Applications for new Catering Licences are now being referred by the Ministry of Food to this department for approval under the Food and Drugs Act, and no licence is granted unless the premises comply with the provisions of this Act.

Although there is no Public Abattoir within the Rural Area it is our practice to take over the inspection of freshly killed animals at the Urban Abattoir during holiday periods, etc.

During the year, apart from meat condemned at the Abattoir, 1094 lbs. of foodstuffs have been condemned as unfit for human consumption. Included in this amount are such foods as tinned hams, cheese, tinned salmon, pork luncheon meat, tinned tomatoes, tinned milk, bottled fruits, meat pastes, boxes of fruit etc.

Milk and Dairies.

During the year 144 milk samples were taken from retailers within the Rural Area and submitted for B. Tuberculosis examination. Only two samples were found to be infected, and in both cases the offending animals were traced and slaughtered.

The results of this sampling reveal that great progress is being made in this area in the eradication of Tuberculosis in milk cows.

Ice Cream (Heat Treatment Regulations).

There are 32 premises registered for sale of ice-cream in the Area, and of these only 1 is registered for manufacture.

In the interests of public health the retailer is encouraged to sell pre-packed ice cream especially in the usual type smaller shop which deals in groceries, vegetables etc.

Public Cleansing.

The work of removing household refuse has continued smoothly throughout the year. The parishes of Dunnerdale-with-Seathwaite and part of Cartmel Fell area are the only

parishes which are not included in the collection scheme.

Refuse bins are emptied fortnightly, privy middens are cleansed once in three months and the few remaining pail closets receive weekly attention.

Every endeavour is being made where water and sewer are available, to have the existing privy middens and pail closets converted to closets of the water carriage system.

Three refuse collection vehicles are in daily use and a spare vehicle is available when repairs are required.

Refuse Depots are situate in the following parishes - Kirkby, Broughton, Coniston, Hawkshead, Gawthwaite, Greenodd, Low Wood, Holker, Cartmel, Urswick, Lowfield and Gleaston.

Housing.

The number of families which have been rehoused in Council house properties during the year is 45. The waiting list of applicants is gradually on the decrease but this does not mean that the need for decent living accommodation has been severely reduced. The high rentals of Council house properties and the Rent Restriction Acts are discouraging many would-be applicants from seeking alternative accommodation.

Again as we stated in our 1950 Annual Report, there is still in abeyance the question of 67 properties which were condemned but not demolished before the war, and the further 500 houses as disclosed by the Rural Housing Survey.

Rodent Control and Other Vermin.

The work of rodent control has continued with vigour throughout the year. Experiments with the new poison "Warfarin" have proved very successful.

The normal measures for control of insect vermin have been applied in several instances and little difficulty has been experienced.

General.

A total of 136 Public Health Nuisances were revealed during the year, either as complaints or during the routine inspections of our districts.

It is our practice where possible to communicate by letter with the owners or persons by whose act or neglect the nuisance arises, and more often that not this procedure is sufficient to cause remedial measures to be put in hand.

Statutory notices are served only when such informal action has failed and it is worthy of note that only 10 such notices were required to be served throughout the year.

We are,

Yours faithfully,

H. E. BINGHAM.
H. C. CLAYDON.

Sanitary Inspectors.

